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Tiutle: Need to expedite four-laning of National Highway No. 67

between Nagapattinam and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to the delay in development of National Highway No. 67 between Nagapattinam and Thanjavur. The NHAI took up 4 laning of this stretch in 2009. Unfortunately, since there was no response from bidders, the NHAI subsequently restructured the project to 2 lanes with paved shoulders in 2012-13. No progress was achieved, as the private developers did not show much interest for this truncated project as well as BOT mode. Presently, the Government of Tamil Nadu has not responded to the request of NHAI in January, 2013 for State Support Agreement (SSA) to enable them to take up the project on EPC mode. The development of this stretch will definitely improve the infrastructure of the State and be instrumental for the economic advancement of the State. Absence of State Support Agreement (SSA) for the project is, therefore, necessitated NHAI to take up the project without further delay.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to impress upon the Tamil Nadu Government to take up the case with NHAI immediately by furnishing the State Support Agreement at the earliest for four-laning of National Highway No. 67 between Nagapattinam and Thanjavur.

I would also like to urge upon the Union Government to instruct the NHAI to take up this people-friendly project on its own on top priority basis if the Tamil Nadu Government fails to furnish the State Support Agreement.